

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3631

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, UN, YE

SUBJECT: YEMENI/SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS

REF: SANA 3473

1. DURING DEC 25 MEETING, I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH AL-ASNAJ ABOUT CURRENT STATUS OF YEMENI-SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS. ASNSJ REPLIED THAT HE HAS NOT HAD TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS SUBJECT IN VIES OF THE RECENT MAJOR PREOCCUPATION WITH SAUDI-YEMENI TIES BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT YEMEN'S EVEN-HANDED POLICY VIS-A-VIS BOTH KOREAS HAS NOW BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, DESPITE THE INSUBORDINATION OF FORMER AMBASSADOR HASSAN AL-MAKKI. ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT NEXT YEAR YEMEN WOULD NOT RPT NOT AS IN THE PAST CO-SPONSOR ANY RESOLUTION ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AND WOULD ABSTAIN ON ALL SUCH PROPOSALS.

2. ASNAJ WENT ON TO SAY THAT ON THE BILATERAL SIDE YEMEN NOW EXPECTS SOUGH KOREA TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE IF IT IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. ASNAJ NOTED THAT AS THE RICHER AND MORE DEVELOPED STATE SOUTH KOREA MUST BE PREPARED TO EXTEND SOME ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN, PARTICULARLY
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IN VIEW OF NORTH KOREA'S READINESS TO HELP DESPITE

THE LATTER'S WEAKER ECONOMIC BASE. ASNAJ HOPED
SOUTH KOREA WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO PURCHASE MEANINFGUL
QUANTITIES OF YEMEN'S ROCK SALT.

3. COMMENT: ASNAJ HAS ONLY REITERATED WHAT WE HAVE BEEN
TOLD SEVERAL TIMES RECENTLY AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTING
THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS DO. THE NEXT MOVE IS CLEARLY UP
TO THEM. PLACE TO START IS WITH MORE CONTACTS WITH
YART TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND TO CARRY OUT
ITS EARLIER COMMITMENT BUY 50,000 TONS OF SALT IN EACH
OF NEXT THREE YEARS.
SCOTES

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